



**DEL MONTE FOODS**

**Nils Lommerlin**  
Chief Operating Officer

One Market @ The Landmark  
P.O. Box 183575  
San Francisco, CA 94119-3575  
415-247-3200  
415-247-3250 fax

**Via Overnight Courier**

May 21, 2008

The Honorable John D. Dingell  
The Honorable Bart Stupak  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Committee on Energy and Commerce  
Washington, D.C. 20515-6115

**Re: Committee on Energy and Commerce Investigation of Nation's Food Supply**

Dear Chairman Dingell and Chairman Stupak:

This responds to your letter of May 8, 2008 in which you request certain information from Del Monte Foods Company ("Del Monte")<sup>1</sup> in connection with your assessment of the potential of microbiological and/or chemical contamination occurring during the processing of food and the extent to which controls have failed to prevent or eliminate contamination in food. The safety and healthfulness of our food products is of paramount concern to Del Monte. We emphasize safety and sanitation in our production processes and have adopted controls and policies to ensure that only the healthiest and best quality products reach our consumers. Over the last eight years, Del Monte has shipped over 1.5 billion cases of food products for human consumption, yet we have had only two recalls during that time.

I will respond to your questions in the same order as set forth in your letter. The responses below relate to products manufactured for human consumption during the time period January 1, 2000 to the present. We ask that you not publicly disclose information contained in this response which is identified as "confidential." If disclosure of Del Monte information is required, we ask that you notify Del Monte prior to such disclosure.

1. Food Recalls and Food Safety Alerts. Del Monte has undertaken two (2) food recalls since 2000. Information regarding these recalls is set forth on Attachment A.

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<sup>1</sup> Note that Del Monte operates the "processed" food business under the Del Monte brand. Fresh fruit, fresh vegetables and fresh produce are sold by Fresh Del Monte Produce Company, an unaffiliated company which licenses the right to use the Del Monte brand on these products.

2. Internal Microbiological Testing. Del Monte products are thermally processed, chemically preserved or otherwise treated to prevent microbial growth. Many of our products are packaged in hermetically sealed containers to preserve commercial sterility. Products are sampled and tested on a regular basis during the production cycle to confirm the products meet standards for quality and purity. With respect to our internal microbiological testing of finished products, we have had no positive findings indicating the presence of *E. coli*, *Salmonella*, *Cyclospora cayetanensis*, *Cryptosporidium*, hepatitis A, *Clostridium botulinum*, or *Listeria monocytogenes* ("Microbiological Contaminants").

3. Internal Testing Indicating the Presence of Chemical Contaminants. Attachment B sets forth a list of the instances when the results of internal testing of finished products were positive for the presence of pesticides, heavy metals, chemical contaminants and chemical residues, and natural toxins ("Chemical Contaminants") at levels in excess of the highest limit acceptable to FDA or any applicable State regulatory authority or where Del Monte deemed it appropriate to take action for food quality reasons.

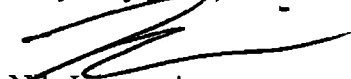
4. Testing of Imported Products. Attachment C sets forth a list of the instances when, with respect to products imported into the United States for handling or processing by any facility operated by Del Monte, the results of internal or outside laboratory testing were positive for the presence of either a Chemical Contaminant or Microbiological Contaminant in excess of the highest limit acceptable to FDA or any applicable State regulatory authority.

5. FDA Notification. See the response to each individual question set forth above or in the attachments hereto.

6. Denial of Facility or Records Access. We are not aware of any instance where FDA or any state food regulatory authority or agency has been denied access to a Del Monte facility. It is Del Monte's policy to cooperate with government investigations in compliance with the Federal Food Drug and Cosmetic Act. Pursuant to Company policy, we do ask that government requests for records be set forth in writing (if originally conveyed verbally) and, on occasion, have asked that requests for records or other information be more specific or clarified. We are not aware of any instance where FDA was denied testing records after submission of a written request.

We are still gathering additional information relating to our international operations and will supplement our response, if necessary, within the next two weeks, as requested in your letter. We trust that we have adequately responded to your questions and concerns. Should you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Very truly yours,



Nils Lommerin  
Chief Operating Officer

cc: Richard G. Wolford